

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

New claims 14-16 have been added by amendment.

Claims 1-4 and 7-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Japanese patent publication 60-178208 (hereinafter "Komune") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,511,974 to Gordon (hereinafter "Gordon"). For the following reasons, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that, at the time the present invention was made, it would not have been obvious to modify the teachings of Komune based on the teachings of Gordon to include ceramic foam in the burner plate (5) of Komune. When considering the technical data, particularly the power output of the burner plate (5) disclosed by Komune of 5 Kcal/cm², one of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that a foam ceramic material could not practically be used, since it would not withstand such a high power density. Rather, in Komune, a material such as a perforated ceramic would be used. It is respectfully submitted that: "If proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification." (See MPEP § 2143.01). Therefore, since modifying the teachings of Komune to use a ceramic foam to form the permeable portions of the burner would render the burner unsuitable for its intended use, the proposed modification or combination of references is non-obvious. Thus, claims 1-4 and 7-13 are patentable over the prior art of record.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a

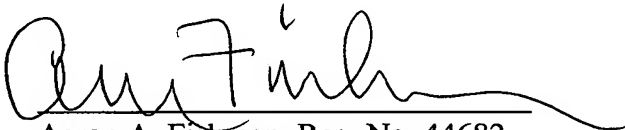
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condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 35878.

Respectfully submitted,

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